

# California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Blue Ribbon Task Force

## M E M O R A N D U M

Cindy Gustafson, Chair  
*Tahoe City Public Utility District*

William Anderson  
*Westrec Marina Management, Inc.*

Meg Caldwell  
*Stanford Law School*

Roberta Cordero  
*Chumash Maritime Association*

Cathy Reheis-Boyd  
*Western States Petroleum Association*

Gregory F. Schem  
*Harbor Real Estate Group*

Jimmy Smith  
*Humboldt County Board of Supervisors*

Virginia Strom-Martin  
*Former State Assemblymember*

**To: President Jim Kellogg and members  
California Fish and Game Commission**

**From: Cindy Gustafson, Chair  
MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force**

**Subject: MLPA North Coast Recommendations**

**Date: January 27, 2011**

**Cc: Members, MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force  
John Laird, Secretary, California Natural Resources  
Agency  
John McCamman, Director, California Department of  
Fish and Game**

---

Ken Wiseman, Executive Director

The purpose of this memorandum is to summarize the work and outcomes of the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) deliberations on marine protected areas (MPAs) for the MLPA North Coast Study Region by providing background information and rationale to support the recommendations. This memorandum provides the commission with context for presentations and discussions scheduled for the special joint meeting on February 2, 2011.

### Overview

With guidance from the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force, the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) successfully completed all elements of its difficult charge, including generating a single, unified marine protected area (MPA) proposal for the MLPA North Coast Study Region. The NCRSG MPA proposal represents the culmination of months of intensive design, evaluation, facilitated negotiation among and across interest groups, and proposal refinement.

The BRTF was impressed by the efforts of the NCRSG to create a widely supported and well thought-out marine protected area proposal which strives to mostly achieve the science and feasibility guidelines while also recognizing the unique characteristics of the north coast study region. When compared to other study regions, unique characteristics of the north coast include a sparse human population and a relatively remote area with geography, weather patterns and oceanographic conditions that significantly limit access to, and limit multiple forms of pressure on, coastal and marine resources.

The NCRSG MPA proposal has by far the highest level of cross-interest support of any MPA proposal ever presented to the BRTF. However, it does have shortcomings, which led the BRTF to create an alternative MPA proposal that is intended to better achieve the goals of the MLPA while respecting the MPA boundaries established by the stakeholders. The single greatest challenge to meeting the science and feasibility guidelines was and is an issue that is beyond the ability of the BRTF to resolve in its advisory capacity, which is traditional tribal gathering. While the intent of both the BRTF and NCRSG is to meet the science and feasibility guidelines under the MLPA while also respecting north coast tribes and tribal communities, that intent can only be achieved with administrative or legislative action to allow tribes and tribal communities to continue their traditional activities within MPAs.

### **Process for Developing the North Coast MPA Proposals**

The revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal resulted from three iterative rounds of MPA planning, starting first with a process whereby local communities worked together to develop and submit MPA arrays, followed by two iterations of MPA proposal development by the NCRSG in a facilitated setting.

In previous MLPA study regions, groups and individuals “external” to the regional stakeholder group have submitted MPA proposals concurrently as the regional stakeholders developed “internal” arrays and proposals. External MPA proposals with broad geographic coverage outlining details of MPAs, including specific boundaries and proposed regulations, would be forwarded to the regional stakeholder group for consideration. Such proposals were included in the MPA planning process in a variety of ways. In some cases, a regional stakeholder group incorporated elements of the external MPA ideas into internal MPA proposals. Other external ideas continued as separate MPA proposals and were revised based on feedback from the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT), California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks), BRTF and MLPA Initiative staff. These two parallel, “internal” and “external” processes required time and resources on the part of both staff and stakeholders.

At the outset of initial outreach to the north coast, it became clear that parallel processes would not be possible or helpful to the community’s ultimate goal of developing a single MPA proposal for the study region. To fully integrate the robust local knowledge available in the region, the first of three rounds of MPA planning was dedicated to encouraging community groups and/or individuals to develop external MPA “arrays” prior to convening a regional stakeholder group. This revised approach to the planning process allowed north coast community members to build a foundation of ten MPA arrays in February 2010 from which the NCRSG could work to develop MPA proposals or a single proposal.

As was also true in the second and third iterations of MPA proposal development, the local community groups considered science guidance, BRTF guidance, SAT evaluations, MLPA Initiative staff evaluations, DFG feasibility criteria and analyses, California State Parks guidance and evaluations, and extensive public comment. Local community groups and the

NCRSG were asked to meet science and feasibility guidelines and to strive for cross-interest support.

The initial ideas developed in the Round 1 of the MPA planning process, and the various forms of feedback and guidance, helped inform the NCRSG's development of draft alternative MPA proposals in Round 2. Seeking to find a balance among meeting science guidelines, minimizing potential socioeconomic impacts, and avoiding impacts to traditional tribal gathering, the NCRSG completed a set of four draft MPA proposals in May 2010.

After another round of more extensive public feedback, and evaluations from the SAT, DFG, California State Parks and MLPA Initiative staff, the BRTF gave considerable guidance to the NCRSG for the Round 3 deliberations. The BRTF asked the NCRSG to give substantial weight to the science guidelines; to strive for broad cross-interest support; to minimize, where possible, significant potential socioeconomic impacts; and to give careful consideration to avoiding, where possible, impacts to tribes and tribal communities. The NCRSG worked very hard to take all this advice into account as it crafted the unified Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal during the months of July and August, an achievement that is unlike any of the three previous MLPA study regions.

The Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal was delivered to the BRTF for review and consideration at a meeting with the NCRSG on October 25-26, 2010. Ultimately the BRTF took seven actions during that meeting (see Appendix A for details), including a decision to forward the revised NCRSG MPA Proposal and the North Coast Special Closures Recommendation to the California Fish and Game Commission for consideration, and adopting the North Coast Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal to also be forward to the commission for consideration.

## **Planning Challenges**

The MLPA North Coast Study Region presented some challenges for MPA planning, most notably 1) avoiding potential economic impacts to communities that have already experienced significant losses from changing timber harvest practices and that are proportionally more reliant on fishing for generating economic activity, 2) finding a mechanism to allow traditional tribal gathering within marine protected areas, 3) addressing the limited availability of certain key habitats for inclusion within MPAs, and 4) recognizing the physical conditions along the north coast that affect access to and use of the ocean environment. Independently these challenges can be found in other regions along California's coast; however, when viewed in their totality, these conditions create a unique situation.

Developing an MPA proposal for the north coast that meets the science guidelines was challenged primarily by the lack of a suitable mechanism for allowing traditional tribal gathering to continue, without opening MPAs to all recreational users. The BRTF has expressed strong support for the efforts of north coast tribes and tribal communities to work with the State of California to gain resolution to this situation; without resolution, the NCRSG and BRTF were essentially being asked to make the untenable choice between meeting the science and feasibility guidelines to help ensure the goals of the MLPA are achieved or respecting the

traditional tribal gathering of California's north coast tribes and tribal communities by allowing all recreational users within MPAs, thereby raising the risk of not meeting the goals of the Marine Life Protection Act.

Despite these challenges, the NCRSG carefully crafted a regional MPA network component that represents a series of compromises and choices that take into account science, broad cross-interest support, potential socioeconomic impacts and the unique conditions of the study region. It is a remarkable achievement that the group was able to produce a single, unified MPA proposal.

### **Recommended North Coast MPA Proposals**

The two MPA proposals being forwarded by the BRTF for the California Fish and Game Commission's consideration are the Revised Round 3 MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group Marine Protected Area Proposal (abbreviated RNCP), as developed by the regional stakeholder group, and the North Coast Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal (ECA). The ECA builds off the RNCP by using the same geographies and boundaries, with modifications to the proposed take regulations to improve compliance with science guidelines and DFG feasibility criteria; the primary difference between the two is that four SMCAs are divided into nearshore "ribbon" and offshore components with different take allowances in an effort to increase levels of protection.

The intent of this proposal is to offer another alternative that comes closer to complying with the science and feasibility guidelines, and to increase the range of feasible alternatives, while limiting the impact to traditional gathering by north coast tribes and tribal communities.

Specifically, the differences in the ECA are:

- Divide four SMCAs (Pyramid Point, Samoa, Big Flat and Vizcaino) into two components: An offshore SMCA and a nearshore "ribbon" SMCA. In the nearshore ribbon SMCA, retain all recreational uses as proposed in the RNCP, including those intended to accommodate tribal uses.
- In the offshore SMCAs at Pyramid Point, Samoa, Big Flat and Vizcaino, retain only those uses at moderate-high or high levels of protection (LOPs).
- At Reading Rock SMCA, retain only those proposed uses with moderate-high or high LOPs.
- At Skip Wollenberg/Ten Mile Beach SMCA, retain all proposed uses at any LOP as proposed in the RNCP.
- In estuarine MPAs and SMRMAs, retain only those uses intended to accommodate tribal uses with a moderate-high or high LOP.
- Add a statement regarding restricting proposed recreational uses intended to accommodate tribes and tribal communities to allow those uses only by tribes and tribal communities when appropriate administrative or legislative action is taken.
- For all SMCAs, add pelagic finfish (spearfishing) to the list of proposed uses.

More details about the individual MPAs in the MLPA North Coast Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal are attached in Appendix B.

Only one of the existing state MPAs (Point Cabrillo SMCA) is proposed for inclusion in the RNCP and ECA with modifications to its boundaries and regulations to improve feasibility and to add recreational take allowances to accommodate gathering by tribes and tribal communities. However, in a separate recommendation that is not linked to a specific MPA proposal, the BRTF suggests that three existing MPAs (MacKerricher, Russian Gulch, and Van Damme SMCAs) be retained with small modifications to their boundaries to improve enforceability and to their allowed uses to accommodate tribes and tribal communities.

In addition to the RNCP and the ECA, Proposal 0 (existing MPAs) is being forward for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Throughout the planning process, Proposal 0 has been included in the various evaluations. The total number of MPAs in each proposal, the number of each type of MPA, and the approximate percentage of study region captured in each case is summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1. Comparison of the Revised Round 3 North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) MPA Proposal (RNCP), MLPA North Coast Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal (ECA), and MLPA North Coast Study Region Existing MPAs (Proposal 0 or P0)**

Classification	Proposals		
	RNCP	ECA	P0
<b>Marine Protected Area (MPA)<sup>1</sup></b>			
State Marine Conservation Area	7 (8.0%)	11 (8.0%)	4 (0.1%)
State Marine Park	1 (<0.1%)	1 (<0.1%)	0 (0%)
State Marine Reserve	6 (5.0%)	6 (5.0%)	1 (.2%)
<i>Total MPAs</i>	<i>14 (13.1%)</i>	<i>18 (13.1%)</i>	<i>5 (.3%)</i>
<b>State Marine Recreational Management Area (SMRMA)<sup>2</sup></b>			
State Marine Recreational Management Area	3 (0.1%)	3 (0.1%)	0 (0%)

<sup>1</sup> These are proposed MPA classifications, NOT levels of protection assigned by the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team

<sup>2</sup> SMRMAs are not MPAs, but rather are a type of marine managed area

## Special Closures Recommendation

Both the RNCP and ECA are accompanied by a recommendation for seven special closures, which were forwarded by the NCRSG and adopted by the BRTF along with the MPA proposals. Two of the special closures focus on marine mammal protection and five focus on marine bird protection; all areas are suggested as 300-foot no-entry zones, with four proposed as seasonal closures only (March 1 - August 31). As with the RNCP, language is included regarding the intention to allow access for traditional, non-commercial, tribal activities when it becomes possible within State of California authority. The special closures recommendation also suggests an alternative to creating special closures at Green Rock and Flatiron Rock.

## **Additional North Coast Recommendations**

The BRTF makes five additional recommendations for the MLPA North Coast Study Region, each of which is detailed in Appendix A:

1. Incorporate tribal uses into marine protected areas of the MLPA North Coast Study Region when the legal authority to do so is clarified and settled by the State of California and California tribes and tribal communities.
2. Establish MPA co-management with California tribes and tribal communities.
3. Add the recreational take of Pacific lamprey and eulachon to appropriate estuarine MPAs.
4. Retain three of the existing north coast marine protected areas with modifications to the boundaries as recommended by California State Parks and DFG and with recreational take allowances added to accommodate gathering by tribes and tribal communities.
5. Change the classification of Ten Mile Estuary State Marine Recreational Management Area to a state marine reserve and the Navarro River Estuary State Marine Recreational Management Area to a state marine conservation area, as intended by the NCRSG.

## **Conclusion**

The recommendations you are receiving for the MLPA North Coast Study Region mark the completion of a statewide, open coast, MPA planning process that started almost seven years ago, a significant milestone for California. What was a collection of MPAs established on a piecemeal basis without any overall goals, management objectives or coherence, is now about to become an interconnected system of MPAs designed using the best readily available science and the knowledge and expertise of those who live, work and recreate along California's coast to help achieve a healthier ocean ecosystem.

There were challenges faced in each of the previous open coast study regions and the unique conditions within each required flexibility and adaptability on the part of the participants; the north coast has been no different. The language of the MLPA recognizes the unique nature of California's 1,100 mile coast and provides sufficient flexibility such that the ultimate MPA design being recommended for the north coast will help achieve the goals of the MLPA without requiring an approach identical to any of the three previous regions.

In each region the BRTF has exercised discretion in making recommendations that address the unique circumstances; in the north coast the significance of the cross-interest support, the conservation value that the MPA proposal achieves, and the unique characteristics of the study region all combine to create an acceptable MPA network component that warrants consideration, with the caveat that a mechanism for allowing traditional tribal gathering must be established.

For MPAs to be effective, they not only need to meet science guidelines, but they also need to have the support of the community; in the north coast that support exists. We make these recommendations with the understanding that the adaptive nature of the MLPA will allow

California's system of MPAs to continue evolving and improving over time to help ensure the health of our ocean ecosystem and local coastal communities for generations to come.

Enclosures: Appendix A. Motions Adopted by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force on October 26, 2010 Regarding Recommendations for the MLPA North Coast Study Region (*November 16, 2010*)  
Appendix B. Brief Description of Marine Protected Areas in the MLPA North Coast Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal (January 26, 2011)

# APPENDIX A

## **California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative**

### **Motions Adopted by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force on October 26, 2010 Regarding Recommendations for the MLPA North Coast Study Region**

*November 16, 2010*

At its meeting on October 25-26, 2010, the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) adopted seven motions with recommendations related to marine protected areas (MPAs) and special closures in the MLPA North Coast Study Region. The BRTF recommendations are specific to the work of the California Fish and Game Commission, California Department of Fish and Game, and California Department of Parks and Recreation, or more generally to the State of California. This document contains the adopted motions as approved by the BRTF. An attachment to this document summarizes the actions resulting from the motions adopted by the BRTF, including which proposed MPAs or special closures are affected, the source of their design, and any modifications to the design (see Attachment A).

**1. Motion to Forward the Revised MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) MPA Proposal and Special Closures Recommendation for the MLPA North Coast Study Region to the California Fish and Game Commission (motion made by Cathy Reheis-Boyd, seconded by Greg Schem, passed unanimously)**

The MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force recommends that the Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal be forwarded to the California Fish and Game Commission in its entirety, in recognition of all of the fine work that the NCRSG has done. The motion includes the NCRSG's Skip Wollenberg recommendation (to re-name the proposed Ten Mile MPAs), Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation (with seven special closures recommended), alternative recommendations for Green Rock and Flatiron Rock, and the NCRSG motion regarding tribal uses.

**2. Motion to Recommend Incorporation of Tribal Uses in Marine Protected Areas of the MLPA North Coast Study Region (motion made by Roberta Cordero, seconded by Meg Caldwell, passed unanimously)**

The BRTF appreciates the extraordinary efforts of the NCRSG to develop feasible methods for ensuring inclusion of tribal traditional, non-commercial uses in the design and location of MPAs. The NCRSG worked diligently to carry out the guidance of the BRTF. Further work is needed to accomplish the goal of ensuring continuation of tribal uses. Accordingly, the BRTF adopts the following recommendations:

1. When the legal authority to do so is clarified and settled by the State of California and California tribes and tribal communities, the BRTF recommends that the California Fish and Game Commission identify "tribal uses" as a separate category of use in the regulations applicable to each MPA. And, for each state marine conservation area (SMCA), state marine park (SMP) and state marine recreational management area (SMRMA) for which the NCRSG has proposed to allow tribal uses, the California Fish and Game Commission should include the following descriptive language in the regulations: "Members of California Indian tribes and tribal communities shall be allowed to fish, gather and harvest marine resources for



traditional, non-commercial subsistence, ceremonial, religious or stewardship purposes.”

2. In recognition of the status quo, there is a mutual reservation of rights by the State of California and California tribes and tribal communities.
3. When the legal authority to do so is clarified and settled by the State of California and California tribes and tribal communities, an approximately 1,000-foot wide nearshore ribbon SMCA for tribal uses should be created adjacent to all proposed state marine reserves that extend from the shoreline in the north coast study region (South Cape Mendocino SMR, Sea Lion Gulch SMR, Skip Wollenberg/Ten Mile SMR and Point Cabrillo SMR) and to the Vizcaino SMCA. Shore-based, extractive uses within these nearshore ribbon SMCAs should be limited to traditional, non-commercial tribal uses.
4. The California Department of Fish and Game should consult and work with the tribes and tribal communities to resolve any outstanding issues with regard to the continuation of tribal traditional, non-commercial uses, including exploration of opportunities for co-management agreements under MLPA.

**3. Motion to Recommend Co-Management of MPAs with Sister Agencies (motion made by Meg Caldwell, seconded by Greg Schem, passed unanimously)**

The BRTF recommends that the California Fish and Game Commission work with tribes and tribal communities and encourage sister agencies to work with the commission and tribes and tribal communities to develop co-management of MPAs where appropriate.

“Sister” agencies are broadly construed to include agencies at different levels of jurisdiction, including local agencies, tribes and tribal communities.

**4. Motion Regarding an Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal (motion made by Greg Schem, seconded by Bill Anderson, passed with six in favor and two abstentions)**

The BRTF recommends that the North Coast Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal be forward to the California Fish and Game Commission that consists of the Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal, modified to include:

- with the exception of the Reading Rock and Ten Mile clusters, creating “nearshore ribbon” SMCAs with a shoreward boundary from the mean high tide line to approximately 1000 feet offshore only in SMCAs with proposed uses at all levels of protection intended to accommodate tribes and tribal communities (Pyramid Point, Samoa, Big Flat, and Vizcaino SMCAs); and
- for the remaining offshore SMCAs at Pyramid Point, Samoa, Big Flat, and Vizcaino, retaining only species/gear types that have a moderate-high or high level of protection and removing any shore-based activity; and

- for Reading Rock SMCA, retaining only species/gear types that have a moderate-high or high level of protection; and
- for Ten Mile SMCA, retaining all proposed uses at all levels of protection, including those intended to accommodate tribes and tribal communities, and
- for estuarine MPAs and SMRMAs with proposed uses intended to accommodate tribes (South Humboldt Bay SMRMA, Big River Estuary SMP, and Navarro River Estuary SMRMA), retaining only species/gear types that have a moderate-high or high level of protection for those uses intended to accommodate tribes and tribal communities; and
- an accompanying statement that proposed recreational uses intended to accommodate traditional tribal uses be restricted to only tribes and tribal communities when administrative or legislative action is taken that allows only tribes and tribal communities to engage in traditional tribal uses within MPAs and SMRMAs, and
- adding pelagic finfish (recreational spearfishing) to all SMCAs.

**5. Motion to Recommend Adding Eulachon and Pacific Lamprey to Estuaries (motion made by Roberta Cordero, seconded by Cathy Reheis-Boyd, passed unanimously)**

The BRTF recommends that eulachon (DIP NET) and Pacific lamprey (SPEARFISHING, HOOK AND LINE, BOW AND ARROW, and HAND) be added to all estuaries with proposed uses intended to accommodate tribes and tribal communities (South Humboldt Bay SMRMA, Big River Estuary SMP, and Navarro River Estuary SMRMA),.

**6. Motion to Recommend Retaining Three Existing MPAs: MacKerricher, Russian Gulch and Van Damme SMCAs (motion made by Virginia Strom-Martin, seconded by Bill Anderson, passed unanimously)**

The BRTF recommends that three existing MPAs that are offshore lands managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (MacKerricher SMCA, Russian Gulch SMCA and Van Damme SMCA) be retained with existing take regulations (both commercial and recreational) and with the addition of proposed allowed uses intended to accommodate tribes and tribal communities. Furthermore, the BRTF recommends that the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the California Department of Fish and Game work together to address feasibility concerns with the boundaries of each site.

**7. Motion to Recommend Changing Classifications for Ten Mile Estuary and Navarro River Estuary State Marine Recreational Management Areas (motion made by Meg Caldwell, seconded by Greg Schem, passed unanimously)**

The BRTF recommends that, if designated, the classification of Ten Mile Estuary State Marine Recreational Management Area be changed to a state marine reserve and the

Navarro River Estuary State Marine Recreational Management Area be changed to a state marine conservation area, as intended by the NCRSG.

## ATTACHMENT A

### California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

#### Summary of Actions Resulting from Motions Adopted by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force for the MLPA North Coast Study Region *November 16, 2010*

At its October 25-26, 2010 meeting, the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) adopted seven motions with recommendations related to marine protected areas (MPAs) and special closures in the MLPA North Coast Study Region. The BRTF recommendations are specific to the work of the California Fish and Game Commission, California Department of Fish and Game, and California Department of Parks and Recreation, or more generally to the State of California (see the adopted BRTF motions document). This document summarizes the actions resulting from the motions adopted by the BRTF, including which proposed MPAs or special closures are affected, the source of their design, and any modifications to the design.

#### **BRTF Motion 1: Forward the Revised Round 3 MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) MPA Proposal and Special Closures Recommendation for the MLPA North Coast Study Region to the California Fish and Game Commission**

This motion forwards the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal in its entirety, but with two modifications:

- Per the NCRSG's recommendation, three MPA names (Ten Mile State Marine Reserve, Ten Mile Beach State Marine Conservation Area, and Ten Mile Estuary State Marine Recreational Management Area) were modified to include, "Skip Wollenberg/...."
- The proposed allowed uses intended to accommodate tribal uses were updated based on a staff review to ensure that legally appropriate species and gear types were included; the findings from this review were presented at the October BRTF meeting (<http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentVersionID=42651>).

The Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation, the NCRSG's tribal uses recommendation, and the Green Rock and Flatiron Rock recommendation will accompany the Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal. See Tables 1 and 2 for more details.

**Table 1. Individual MPAs and MPA clusters included in the Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal for BRTF Motion 1**

MPA or MPA Cluster Name <sup>1,2</sup>	Source of Boundaries and Proposed Allowed Uses	Modifications
Pyramid Point SMCA	Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal	Modified recreational uses intended to accommodate tribal uses
Point St. George Reef Offshore SMCA	Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal	None

<sup>1</sup> SMCA = state marine conservation area, SMP = state marine park, SMR = state marine reserve, SMRMA = state marine recreational management area

<sup>2</sup> Note this proposal includes state marine recreational management areas (SMRMAs), which are not MPAs but rather marine managed areas.

<b>MPA or MPA Cluster Name<sup>1,2</sup></b>	<b>Source of Boundaries and Proposed Allowed Uses</b>	<b>Modifications</b>
Reading Rock SMR/SMCA cluster	Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal	SMR: No change  SMCA: Modified recreational uses intended to accommodate tribal uses
Samoa SMCA	Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal	Modified recreational uses intended to accommodate tribal uses
South Humboldt Bay SMRMA	Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal	Modified recreational uses intended to accommodate tribal uses
South Cape Mendocino SMR	Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal	None
Mattole Canyon SMR	Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal	None
Sea Lion Gulch SMR	Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal	None
Big Flat SMCA	Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal	Modified recreational uses intended to accommodate tribal uses
Vizcaino SMCA	Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal	Modified recreational uses intended to accommodate tribal uses
Ten Mile SMR/SMCA cluster	Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal	SMR: Modified name to, "Skip Wollenberg/ Ten Mile SMR"  SMCA: Modified name to "Skip Wollenberg/ Ten Mile Beach SMCA" and modified recreational uses intended to accommodate tribal uses
Ten Mile Estuary SMRMA	Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal	Modified name to "Skip Wollenberg/ Ten Mile Estuary SMRMA"
Point Cabrillo SMR	Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal	None
Big River Estuary SMP	Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal	Modified recreational uses intended to accommodate tribal uses
Navarro River Estuary SMRMA	Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal	Modified recreational uses intended to accommodate tribal uses

**Table 2. Special Closures included in the Round 3 NCRSG Special Closure Recommendation for BRTF Motion 1**

<b>Special Closure Name</b>	<b>Source of Boundaries and Closure Times</b>	<b>Modifications</b>
Southwest Seal Rock Special Closure	Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation	None
Castle Rock Special Closure	Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation	None
False Klamath Rock Seasonal Special Closure	Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation	None

<b>Special Closure Name</b>	<b>Source of Boundaries and Closure Times</b>	<b>Modifications</b>
Sugarloaf Island Special Closure	Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation	None
Steamboat Rock Seasonal Special Closure	Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation	None
Rockport Rocks Seasonal Special Closure	Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation	None
Vizcaino Rock Seasonal Special Closure	Round 3 NCRSG Special Closures Recommendation	None

### **BRTF Motion 2: Recommend Incorporation of Tribal Uses in MPAs of the MLPA North Coast Study Region**

This motion recommends that tribal traditional, non-commercial uses be accommodated in proposed state marine parks (SMPs), state marine conservation areas (SMCAs) and state marine recreational management areas (SMRMAs) when the legal authority to do so is clarified and settled by the State of California and California tribes and tribal communities. The motion also recommends modifying the proposed South Cape Mendocino State Marine Reserve (SMR), the Sea Lion Gulch SMR, Ten Mile SMR, Point Cabrillo SMR and Vizcaino SMCA to include a nearshore ribbon SMCA of approximately 1000 feet with only traditional, non-commercial tribal shore-based activities allowed within the SMCA ribbon.

### **BRTF Motion 3: Recommend Co-Management of MPAs with Sister Agencies**

This motion recommends that the California Fish and Game Commission work with tribes and tribal communities and encourage sister agencies to work with the commission and tribes and tribal communities to develop co-management of MPAs where appropriate.

### **BRTF Motion 4: Motion Regarding the North Coast Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal**

This motion describes the North Coast Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal (ECA). The ECA builds off the Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal with modifications to improve compliance with science guidelines and California Department of Fish and Game feasibility criteria. The modifications involve replacing some SMCAs from the NCRSG proposal with MPA clusters that include a nearshore ribbon SMCA to accommodate tribal uses and an offshore SMCA with more limited take regulations in an effort to raise the level of protection; this approach is consistent with previous BRTF guidance to the NCRSG. In addition, Motion 4 includes a recommendation to restrict proposed recreational uses intended to accommodate traditional tribal uses to only tribes and tribal communities when administrative or legislative action is taken that allows only tribes and tribal communities to engage in traditional tribal uses within MPAs and SMRMAs. See Table 3 for more details.

**Table 3. Individual MPAs and MPA clusters included in the North Coast Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal described in BRTF Motion 4.**

<b>MPA or MPA Cluster Name<sup>3,4</sup></b>	<b>Source of Boundaries &amp; Proposed Allowed Uses</b>	<b>Boundary Modifications</b>	<b>Proposed Allowed Uses Modifications<sup>5</sup></b>
Pyramid Point Nearshore/ Offshore SMCA cluster	Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal: Pyramid Point SMCA	Modify MPA to create MPA cluster that includes a nearshore ribbon SMCA of approximately 1000 feet and an offshore SMCA	Nearshore ribbon SMCA: Include all proposed allowed uses at all levels of protection, including those intended to accommodate tribal uses, and add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing.  Offshore SMCA: Retain only proposed allowed uses with moderate-high or high levels of protection and add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing; any proposed allowed uses with moderate, moderate-low or low levels of protection removed.
Point St. George Reef Offshore SMCA	Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal: Point St. George Offshore Reef SMCA	None	Add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing.
Reading Rock SMR/SMCA cluster	Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal: Reading Rock SMR/Reading Rock SMCA	None	SMR: No changes  SMCA: Retain only proposed allowed uses with moderate-high or high levels of protection, and add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing; any proposed allowed uses with moderate, moderate-low or low levels of protection removed.

<sup>3</sup> SMCA = state marine conservation area, SMP = state marine park, SMR = state marine reserve, SMRMA = state marine recreational management area

<sup>4</sup> Note this proposal includes state marine recreational management areas, which are not MPAs, but rather marine managed areas.

<sup>5</sup> The detailed lists of proposed allowed uses (species and gear types) can be found in MarineMap ([www.marinemap.org](http://www.marinemap.org)).

*California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative  
Summary of Actions Resulting from Motions Adopted by the  
MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force for the MLPA North Coast Study Region  
November 16, 2010*

<b>MPA or MPA Cluster Name<sup>3,4</sup></b>	<b>Source of Boundaries &amp; Proposed Allowed Uses</b>	<b>Boundary Modifications</b>	<b>Proposed Allowed Uses Modifications<sup>5</sup></b>
Samoa Nearshore/ Offshore SMCA cluster	Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal: Samoa SMCA	Modify MPA to create MPA cluster that includes a nearshore ribbon SMCA of approximately 1000 feet and an offshore SMCA	Nearshore ribbon SMCA: Include proposed allowed uses at all levels of protection, including those intended to accommodate tribal uses, and add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing.  Offshore SMCA: Retain only proposed allowed uses with moderate-high or high levels of protection and add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing; any proposed allowed uses with moderate, moderate-low or low levels of protection removed.
South Humboldt Bay SMRMA	Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal: South Humboldt Bay SMRMA	None	Retain only proposed allowed uses with moderate-high or high levels of protection, including those intended to accommodate tribal uses; any proposed allowed uses with moderate, moderate-low or low levels of protection removed.
South Cape Mendocino SMR	Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal: South Cape Mendocino SMR	None	None
Mattole Canyon SMR	Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal: Mattole Canyon SMR	None	None
Sea Lion Gulch SMR	Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal: Sea Lion Gulch SMR	None	None
Big Flat Nearshore/ Offshore SMCA cluster	Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal: Big Flat SMCA	Modify MPA to create MPA cluster that includes a nearshore ribbon SMCA of approximately 1000 feet and an offshore SMCA	Nearshore ribbon SMCA: Include proposed allowed uses at all levels of protection, including those intended to accommodate tribal uses, and add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing.  Offshore SMCA: Retain only proposed allowed uses with moderate-high or high levels of protection and add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing; any proposed allowed uses with moderate, moderate-low or low levels of protection removed.



*California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative  
Summary of Actions Resulting from Motions Adopted by the  
MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force for the MLPA North Coast Study Region  
November 16, 2010*

<b>MPA or MPA Cluster Name<sup>3,4</sup></b>	<b>Source of Boundaries &amp; Proposed Allowed Uses</b>	<b>Boundary Modifications</b>	<b>Proposed Allowed Uses Modifications<sup>5</sup></b>
Vizcaino Nearshore/ Offshore SMCA cluster	Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal: Vizcaino SMCA	Modify MPA to create MPA cluster that includes a nearshore ribbon SMCA of approximately 1000 feet and an offshore SMCA	Nearshore ribbon SMCA: Include proposed allowed uses at all levels of protection, including those intended to accommodate tribal uses, and add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing.  Offshore SMCA: Retain only proposed allowed uses with moderate-high or high levels of protection and add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing; any proposed allowed uses with moderate, moderate-low or low levels of protection removed.
Skip Wollenberg/Ten Mile SMR/SMCA cluster	Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal: Skip Wollenberg/Ten Mile SMR and Skip Wollenberg/Ten Mile Beach SMCA	None	SMR: No changes  SMCA: Add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing.
Skip Wollenberg/Ten Mile Estuary SMRMA	Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal: Skip Wollenberg/Ten Mile Estuary SMRMA	None	None
Point Cabrillo SMR	Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal: Point Cabrillo SMR	None	None
Big River Estuary SMP	Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal: Big River Estuary SMP	None	Retain only proposed allowed uses with moderate-high or high levels of protection for those uses intended to accommodate tribal uses; any proposed allowed uses intended to accommodate tribal uses with moderate, moderate-low or low levels of protection removed.
Navarro River Estuary SMRMA	Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal: Navarro River Estuary SMRMA	None	Retain only proposed allowed uses with moderate-high or high levels of protection for those uses intended to accommodate tribal uses; any proposed allowed uses intended to accommodate tribal uses with moderate, moderate-low or low levels of protection removed.

### **BRTF Motion 5: Recommend Adding Eulachon and Pacific Lamprey to Estuaries**

This motion recommends that the recreational take of Pacific lamprey (by hook and line, hand, spear, and bow and arrow) and eulachon (by dip net) be added to the proposed allowed uses for estuarine MPAs intended to accommodate tribes: South Humboldt Bay SMRMA, Big River Estuary SMP and Navarro River Estuary SMRMA.

### **BRTF Motion 6: Recommend Retaining Three Existing MPAs with Modifications: MacKerricher, Russian Gulch and Van Damme SMCAs**

This motion recommends that three of the five existing MPAs (MacKerricher SMCA, Russian Gulch SMCA and Van Damme SMCA) be retained with modifications. The BRTF recommends that two state agencies, the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and California Department of Parks and Recreation, work together and modify the three existing MPAs so that DFG feasibility concerns regarding boundaries are addressed. See Table 4 for more details.

**Table 4. Existing MPAs (Proposal 0) included in BRTF Motion 6.**

<b>MPA or MPA Cluster Name</b>	<b>Source of Boundaries and Proposed Allowed Uses</b>	<b>Boundary Modifications</b>	<b>Proposed Allowed Uses Modifications<sup>6</sup></b>
MacKerricher SMCA	Proposal 0	Modify boundaries to address DFG feasibility concerns.	Modify proposed allowed uses to include recreational take that accommodates tribal uses.
Russian Gulch SMCA	Proposal 0	Modify boundaries to address DFG feasibility concerns.	Modify proposed allowed uses to include recreational take that accommodates tribal uses.
Van Damme SMCA	Proposal 0	Modify boundaries to address DFG feasibility concerns.	Modify proposed allowed uses to include recreational take that accommodates tribal uses.

### **BRTF Motion 7: Recommend Changing the Classifications of the Ten Mile Estuary and Navarro River Estuary SMRMAs**

This motion recommends modifying the proposed designation of two SMRMAs back to the MPA designation originally assigned by the NCRSG before waterfowl hunting was suggested to take place in these geographies. As such, the Ten Mile Estuary SMRMA would change to a state marine reserve and the Navarro River Estuary SMRMA would change to a state marine conservation area. For both of these proposed MPAs, any proposed allowed uses related to waterfowl hunting would be removed.

<sup>6</sup> MLPA Initiative and California Department of Fish and Game staff are working to develop the list of additional proposed uses intended to accommodate tribal uses, which will be added to MarineMap ([www.marinemap.org](http://www.marinemap.org)) when complete.

## APPENDIX B

### California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

#### Brief Description of Marine Protected Areas in the North Coast Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal

*January 24, 2011*

This appendix provides a discussion of each marine protected area (MPA) and state marine recreational management area (SMRMA) identified in the North Coast Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal (ECA). The ECA was developed by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force and is one of two MPA proposals being forwarded to the California Fish and Game Commission for consideration. This document highlights the source of each design, the purpose, any modifications to the NCRSG design (boundaries and proposed allowed uses) and key considerations. For a complete description of ecological, socioeconomic, cultural and other considerations for each proposed MPA and SMRMA, please see the description of MPAs for the ECA and other supporting documents on the MLPA website at [http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/mpaproposals\\_nc.asp](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/mpaproposals_nc.asp).

There are six additional acronyms used throughout this document: Level of protection (LOP), meter (m), MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG), state marine conservation area (SMCA), state marine park (SMP), and state marine reserve (SMR).

#### ***Pyramid Point Offshore SMCA and Nearshore SMCA (Pyramid Point cluster)***

**Source:** Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal (RNCP)

**Key Purpose:** This northern-most cluster captures offshore rocks that support a variety of breeding birds. It does not contribute to the backbone because it lacks any habitat replicates at or above moderate-high LOP.

**Boundary or Proposed Allowed Uses Modifications:** Boundaries were taken from the Pyramid Point SMCA in the NCRSG MPA Proposal; however, the ECA modified the single SMCA to create a cluster with a nearshore ribbon SMCA of approximately 1000 feet (proposed allowed uses modified to add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing) and an offshore SMCA (proposed allowed uses modified to retain only species/gear types with at least moderate-high LOP and to add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing).

**Key Considerations:** There was general support for placing an MPA in this geography. Every MPA proposal in the north coast planning process proposed an MPA or cluster here; however, the boundary designs varied. This MPA was part of a negotiation; the NCRSG decided not to place an MPA near Wilson Rock, just north of the Klamath River, in exchange for an MPA at Pyramid Point. There are three habitat replicates available within this cluster (beaches, rocky shores and soft 0-30m proxy) but all are found in the nearshore SMCA, which is below the science guidelines required moderate-high LOP. Some design considerations on cluster placement included Pelican State Park, which is located in the northern portion of the cluster and Smith River Rancheria, which is located just south of the cluster's southern boundary. The NCRSG decided to avoid the Smith River Rancheria as it did not reduce habitat potential, but did not accommodate the state park by moving the northern boundary south because it would result in losing the rocky shores habitat replicate and would not meet Department of Fish and Game Feasibility

Guidelines. In addition, this MPA was recommended for co-management with the Tolowa Tribe.

### ***Point St. George Reef Offshore SMCA***

**Source:** RNCP

**Key Purpose:** This moderate-high protection, offshore MPA is important for meeting habitat replication guidelines for the northern bioregion, particularly for deeper habitats. Habitat replicates include hard 30-100m, soft 30-100m and soft 100-3000m. It is also the only offshore bank north of Point Reyes.

**Boundary or Proposed Allowed Uses Modifications:** Boundaries were directly taken from the NCRSG MPA Proposal. The proposed allowed uses were modified to add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing.

**Key Considerations:** An MPA was placed in this geography by the NCRSG to capture the deep soft habitat; it is the only place where a replicate is available in the northern bioregion, north of Cape Mendocino. It is designed to overlap with the Rockfish Conservation Area to minimize socioeconomic impacts. The eastern boundary is designed to be in line with navigational buoy.

### ***Reading Rock SMR and Reading Rock SMCA (Reading Rock cluster)***

**Source:** RNCP

**Key Purpose:** This backbone MPA cluster is the ECA's only one to meet preferred-size guidelines. It is also the northern-most cluster to replicate any nearshore habitats at moderate-high or above LOP. In total, five of the nine open coast habitats are replicated in this cluster, including: beaches, rocky shores, hard 30-100m, soft 0-30m proxy, and soft 30-100m.

**Boundary or Proposed Allowed Uses Modifications:** Boundaries were directly taken from the NCRSG MPA Proposal. The proposed allowed uses in the Reading Rock SMCA were modified to retain only species/gear types with at least moderate-high LOP and to add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing.

**Key Considerations:** Unlike other clusters in the northern bioregion, Reading Rock cluster offers habitat protection in the nearshore area. Siting MPAs in this geography was part of a stakeholder compromise that agreed to place an MPA or cluster at Reading Rock to avoid closures at Trinidad Head and Patrick's Point. The Redwood National and State Park has land adjacent to this cluster. In addition, this area is also considered to be Yurok territory and as such, the cluster was recommended for co-management with the Yurok Tribe.

### ***Samoa Offshore SMCA and Samoa Nearshore SMCA (Samoa cluster)***

**Source:** RNCP

**Key Purpose:** The offshore SMCA provides one habitat replicate of soft 30-100m.

**Boundary or Proposed Allowed Uses Modifications:** Boundaries were taken from the Samoa SMCA in the NCRSG MPA Proposal; however, the ECA modified the single SMCA to create a cluster with a nearshore ribbon SMCA of approximately 1000 feet (proposed allowed uses modified to add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing) and an offshore SMCA (proposed allowed uses modified to retain only species/gear types with at least moderate-high LOP and to add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing).

**Key Considerations:** There are two additional habitat replicates available within this cluster (beaches and soft 0-30m proxy) but they are found in the nearshore SMCA, which does not meet science guidelines. The beach replicate would help reduce the 126-mile spacing gap between the Reading Rock cluster and Skip Wollenberg/Ten Mile SMR. The northern and southern boundaries are designed on whole minutes because obvious landmarks were not available; they were chosen based the California Department of Fish and Game input to help minimize confusion for both beach-based users and offshore users. This cluster was recommended for co-management with the Wiyot Tribe.

### ***South Humboldt Bay SMRMA***

**Source:** RNCP

**Key Purpose:** This SMRMA is part of the backbone and protects estuarine habitat, especially sensitive eelgrass habitat. It captures the only estuarine habitat replicates in the northern bioregion.

**Boundary or Proposed Allowed Uses Modifications:** Boundaries were directly taken from the NCRSG MPA Proposal. The proposed allowed uses were modified to retain only species/gear types that have at least moderate-high LOP for those uses intended to accommodate tribes and tribal communities.

**Key Considerations:** It provides protection for critical eelgrass habitat. In addition, there are a variety of user groups and activities in Humboldt Bay, including restoration projects, aquaculture sites and long-term monitoring. The Wiyot Tribe owns land adjacent to the estuary and stakeholders worked with the tribe to minimize impacts; co-management with the Wiyot Tribe is recommended.

### ***South Cape Mendocino SMR***

**Source:** RNCP

**Key Purpose:** This backbone reserve replicates several habitats, including: rocky shores, hard 30-100m and soft 0-30m proxy. It protects also seabird and marine mammal colonies.

**Boundary or Proposed Allowed Uses Modifications:** Boundaries were directly taken from the NCRSG MPA Proposal and there were no modifications to the proposed allowed uses.

**Key Considerations:** Every draft proposal submitted by the NCRSG included a state marine reserve at this site. This is part of a compromise with Eureka fishermen to keep

open the area north of this MPA. South Cape Mendocino SMR is part of group of three reserves in the area, which includes Mattole Canyon SMR and Sea Lion Gulch SMR. They were designed as linked geographies and based on negotiations between stakeholders and local communities, particularly Petrolia and Shelter Cove. These MPAs overlap with essential fish habitat (EFH) conservation areas in an effort to minimize impacts on fishing. In addition to the habitat replicates mentioned above, this MPA comes close to meeting the replication guidelines for beach habitat; this point also relates to spacing guidelines as there is currently a large, 126-mile gap that this MPA comes close to addressing. Regarding proposed uses, this is one of the only MPAs in the ECA that does not accommodate tribal uses in the nearshore area.

### ***Mattole Canyon SMR***

**Source:** RNCP

**Key Purpose:** A backbone reserve designed to meet replication guidelines for rare deep habitats while minimizing socioeconomic impacts to the local community. In addition, the MPA is located in an upwelling zone.

**Boundary or Proposed Allowed Uses Modifications:** Boundaries were directly taken from the NCRSG MPA Proposal and there were no modifications to the proposed allowed uses.

**Key Considerations:** Mattole Canyon SMR crosses the bioregion boundary. It provides four habitat replicates (hard 30-100m hard 100-3000m, soft 30-100m and soft 100-3000m) and it contains the only deep hard replicate in the ECA. This MPA is part of a group of three reserves in the area, which includes South Cape Mendocino SMR and Sea Lion Gulch SMR. They were designed as linked geographies and based on negotiations between stakeholders and local communities, particularly Petrolia and Shelter Cove. The design received extensive input from the Petrolia community and leaves the nearshore area open to provide the only nearby shore access. It also overlaps with an EFH conservation area in an effort to minimize impacts on fishing.

### ***Sea Lion Gulch SMR***

**Source:** RNCP

**Key Purpose:** This northern-most reserve in the southern bioregion has three habitat replicates: rocky shores, hard 30-100m and soft 0-30m. It also offers protection to seabird colonies.

**Boundary or Proposed Allowed Uses Modifications:** Boundaries were directly taken from the NCRSG MPA Proposal and there were no modifications to the proposed allowed uses.

**Key Considerations:** The reserve is close to meeting the guidelines for deep hard habitat, but it is difficult to get in this geography because most of the habitat lies outside the study region boundary. This MPA is part of group of three reserves in the area, which includes South Cape Mendocino SMR and Mattole Canyon SMR. They were designed as

linked geographies and based on negotiations between stakeholders and local communities, particularly Petrolia and Shelter Cove. These MPAs overlap with EFH conservation areas in an effort to minimize impacts on fishing. The southern boundary was specifically located north of Roger's Break, which is an important fishing area to Shelter Cove. In addition, it is an area of special biological significance (ASBS). It is one of the few MPAs in the ECA that does not accommodate tribal uses in the nearshore area.

### ***Big Flat Offshore SMCA and Big Flat Nearshore SMCA (Big Flat cluster)***

**Source:** RNCP

**Key Purpose:** The offshore MPA provides two habitat replicates: soft 30-100m and soft 100-3000m. It protects rockfish habitat, including a Rockfish Conservation Area, and also contains part of Spanish Canyon.

**Boundary or Proposed Allowed Uses Modifications:** Boundaries were taken from the Big Flat SMCA in the NCRSG MPA Proposal; however, the ECA modified the single SMCA to create a cluster with a nearshore ribbon SMCA of approximately 1000 feet (proposed allowed uses modified to add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing) and an offshore SMCA (proposed allowed uses modified to retain only species/gear types with at least moderate-high LOP and to add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing).

**Key Considerations:** There are three additional habitat replicates available within this cluster (beaches, rocky shores and soft 0-30m proxy) but they are found in the nearshore SMCA, which does not meet science guidelines. The beach replicate would help reduce the 126-mile spacing gap between the Reading Rock cluster and Skip Wollenberg/Ten Mile SMR. Big Flat is part of a compromise that agreed to keep Roger's Break open to fishing. The boundaries were placed so that the northern boundary is at the mouth of Big Creek and the southern is approximately ten miles from Shelter Cove.

### ***Vizcaino Offshore SMCA and Vizcaino Nearshore SMCA (Vizcaino cluster)***

**Source:** RNCP

**Key Purpose:** The offshore SMCA contributes to habitat replication for soft 30-100m and soft 100-3000m.

**Boundary or Proposed Allowed Uses Modifications:** Boundaries were taken from the Vizcaino SMCA in the NCRSG MPA Proposal; however, the ECA modified the single SMCA to create a cluster with a nearshore ribbon SMCA of approximately 1000 feet (proposed allowed uses modified to add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing) and an offshore SMCA (proposed allowed uses modified to retain only species/gear types with at least moderate-high LOP and to add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing).

**Key Considerations:** There are five additional habitat replicates available within this cluster (beaches, rocky shores, kelp, hard 0-30m proxy and soft 0-30m proxy) but they

are found in the nearshore SMCA, which does not meet science guidelines. Most notable are the potential kelp and hard 0-30m proxy replicates because the ECA currently has only one replicate of each in the entire study region.

There were some important considerations that factored into the design. The southern boundary was designed to avoid nearshore commercial fishing, sport fishing and urchin harvest south of the MPA. The MPA also accommodates important crab and salmon fishing that is critical to the local communities. It is placed to minimize impacts on public access; it is below Usal Beach and above Rockport Beach. The NCRSG also considered concerns expressed by a bordering private landowner (Soper Company/Wilderness Unlimited) about the southern boundary, but the stakeholders decided the importance to gain the hard 0-30m replicate in the southern portion of the reserve outweighed the impacts to a limited number of users.

### ***Skip Wollenberg/Ten Mile SMR and Skip Wollenberg/Ten Mile Beach SMCA (Skip Wollenberg/Ten Mile cluster)***

**Source:** RNCP

**Key Purpose:** This southernmost open-coast backbone provides replicates for seven of the nine open coast habitats, including: beaches, rocky shores, kelp, hard 0-30m proxy, hard 30-100m, soft 0-30m proxy and soft 30-100. It is the only MPA in the ECA that addresses replication for kelp and hard 0-30m proxy. In addition, this area protects marine mammal haul outs and marine bird nesting and breeding areas.

**Boundary or Proposed Allowed Uses Modifications:** Boundaries were directly taken from the NCRSG MPA Proposal. The proposed allowed uses in the Skip Wollenberg/Ten Mile Beach SMCA were modified to add recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing, and no modifications were made for Skip Wollenberg/Ten Mile SMR.

**Key Considerations:** This MPA cluster was designed to capture the needed habitat for replication and spacing guidelines, while leaving the beach open for traditional tribal activities. The SMR is located south of public access points and a local fishing area in an effort to minimize impacts on local users. The northern boundary was brought as far south as possible while still capturing the hard 0-30m habitat. This replicate, in particular, is important to the ECA meeting science guidelines. It is also the southernmost backbone MPA in the north coast down to Point Arena to avoid further impacts to that north central coast community.

### ***Skip Wollenberg/Ten Mile Estuary SMRMA***

**Source:** RNCP

**Key Purpose:** This is the southernmost estuarine backbone in the MPA system; it provides the only estuarine habitat replicates in the southern bioregion.

**Boundary or Proposed Allowed Uses Modifications:** Boundaries were directly taken from the NCRSG MPA Proposal and there were no modifications to the proposed allowed uses.



**Key Considerations:** The site protects critical fish and bird habitat, as well as sensitive eelgrass beds, expands upon existing long-term protection, and serves as an ecological linkage in protection between the near-shore and estuary. The SMRMA designation is based on suspected waterfowl hunting in the estuary; if it is determined that waterfowl hunting does not take place within this site, the designation should be changed to an SMR, as intended by the NCRSG.

### ***Point Cabrillo SMR***

**Source:** RNCP

**Key Purpose:** This heritage site was designed to maintain and improve an existing MPA and address Goal 3 educational and study opportunities.

**Boundary or Proposed Allowed Uses Modifications:** Boundaries were directly taken from the NCRSG MPA Proposal and there were no modifications to the proposed allowed uses.

**Key Considerations:** This reserve is below minimum size, but was not intended to meet science guidelines; it is a Goal 3 MPA with good baseline data from long-term monitoring and research efforts. The NCRSG was interested in adaptive management research including study opportunities for urchin and other species.

### ***Big River Estuary SMP***

**Source:** RNCP

**Key Purpose:** This estuarine MPA is the only proposed state marine park in the ECA; it provides Goal 3 recreational and educational opportunities.

**Boundary or Proposed Allowed Uses Modifications:** Boundaries were directly taken from the NCRSG MPA Proposal. The proposed allowed uses were modified to retain only species/gear types that have at least moderate-high LOP for those uses intended to accommodate tribes and tribal communities. Any proposed allowed uses intended for all recreational or commercial users were retained, including those with moderate, moderate-low or low levels of protection. Big River Estuary SMP includes recreational take of surfperch from shore and this proposed allowed use was retained because it was intended for all recreational users.

**Key Considerations:** MPA is close to population centers and includes numerous coastal access points, which are important for Goal 3 MPAs. It does not contribute to the backbone due to the moderate LOP assigned for the proposed recreational surfperch fishing from shore. Including surfperch in the proposed allowed uses was important for local support and a key factor in the NCRSG negotiations.

### ***Navarro River Estuary SMRMA***

**Source:** RNCP

**Key Purpose:** This SMRMA provides Goal 3 recreational opportunities.

**Boundary or Proposed Allowed Uses Modifications:** Boundaries were directly taken from the NCRSG MPA Proposal. The proposed allowed uses were modified to retain only species/gear types that have at least moderate-high LOP for those uses intended to accommodate tribes and tribal communities. Any proposed allowed uses intended for all recreational or commercial users were retained, including those with moderate, moderate-low or low levels of protection. Navarro River Estuary SMRMA includes recreational take for all users that is below moderate-high LOP.

**Key Considerations:** The SMRMA designation is based on suspected waterfowl hunting in the estuary; if it is determined that waterfowl hunting does not take place within this site, the designation should be changed to an SMCA, as intended by the NCRSG. It does not contribute to meeting science guidelines due to the level of protection.